

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10, and 12-22.

Please add the following new Claims 23-38:

--23. A remote transaction machine for applying a monetary value of coins deposited by a user to a remote transaction, comprising:

a coin counting module operable to count coins deposited therein by a user, and to calculate a monetary value therefor;

a computer connected to said coin counting module, said computer comprising a processor, a memory, a user interface, and a connection for communicating transaction information over a communication link connected thereto, wherein said processor is adapted to execute program instructions stored in said memory, said program instructions comprising:

generating a transaction request according to an option selected by the user from a menu of transaction options provided on said user interface;

sending the transaction request to a remote recipient via a communication link connected to said connection;

receiving a response back from the remote recipient via the communication link;

providing the response received from the remote recipient to the user using said user interface; and

confirming a transaction between the user and the remote recipient, wherein the transaction includes a payment by the user to the remote recipient, and wherein said coin counting module retains at least a portion of the coins deposited by the user having a monetary value equal to at least a portion of the payment by the user to the remote recipient.

--24. The remote transaction machine of Claim 23, wherein said program instructions further comprise accepting an additional, non-coin method of payment from said user.--

--25. The remote transaction machine of Claim 23, wherein said program instructions further comprise formatting the transaction request according to a standard protocol specified by the remote recipient.--

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--26. The remote transaction machine of Claim 23, wherein said confirming step of program instructions further comprises issuing a receipt to the user redeemable for an overage of the at least a portion of the coins retained by the coin counting module over the payment by the user to the remote recipient.--

--27. The remote transaction machine of Claim 23, further comprising a kiosk housing said coin counting module and said computer.--

--28. The remote transaction machine of Claim 23, wherein said coin counting module further comprises a coin input tray adapted to deliver coins to a transport device by lifting one end of the input tray.--

--29. The remote transaction machine of Claim 23, wherein said coin counting module further comprises a coin discriminator sensor and a container for receiving the coins deposited by a user.--

Subc 7 --30. The remote transaction machine of Claim 29, wherein said coin counting module further comprises a movable backplate biased toward said container for dispensing debris from said container.--

--31. The remote transaction machine of Claim 29, wherein said coin counting module further comprises a transport device for transporting the coins from the user to said container at a flow rate controlled according to the quantity of coins in the container.--

--32. The remote transaction machine of Claim 29, wherein said coin counting module further comprises a coin rail, a feed for extracting coins from said container onto said rail, and a solenoid positioned to expel non-authentic coins from said rail.--

B1 --33. The remote transaction machine of Claim 23, wherein said coin counting module further comprises an escrow container for retaining counted coins, said escrow container operable to dispense said counted coins to a user of said remote transaction machine at said user's selection.--

--34. The remote transaction machine of Claim 23, wherein said coin counting module further comprises a coin sorter.--

Subc 7 --35. The remote transaction machine of Claim 32, wherein said coin counting module further comprises at least one air hose positioned to direct compressed air onto said coin rail.--

--36. The remote transaction machine of Claim 23, wherein said user interface of said computer comprises a touchscreen.--

--37. The remote transaction machine of Claim 23, wherein said user interface of said computer comprises a keyboard and video display.--

--38. A method for conducting remote transactions over a communication link, said method comprising:

receiving a quantity of coins deposited by a user at a kiosk;
calculating a monetary value of said quantity of coins using an automatic coin counting module;
presenting a menu of transaction options to the user;
generating a transaction request according to a transaction option selected by the user from the menu of transaction options;
sending the transaction request to a remote recipient via a communication link connected to the coin counting module;
receiving a response back from the remote recipient via the communication link;
providing the response received from the remote recipient to the user at the kiosk;
confirming a transaction between the user and the remote recipient, wherein the transaction includes a payment by the user to the remote recipient; and
retaining at least a portion of the coins deposited by the user having a monetary value equal to at least a portion of the payment by the user to the remote recipient.--

--39. The method of Claim 38, further comprising returning to the user a portion of the coins deposited by the user.--

--40. The method of Claim 38, further comprising presenting a plurality of related transaction menus to the user.--

--41. The method of Claim 38, wherein said sending step further comprises sending the transaction request to a host computer, then transmitting the transaction request from the host computer to the remote recipient.--

--42. The method of Claim 41, further comprising monitoring status data from said kiosk using the host computer.--

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--43. The method of Claim 38, further comprising accepting at the kiosk additional payment for the transaction selected by the user, wherein the additional payment is by a mode selected from credit card, debit card, and smart card.--

--44. The method of Claim 38, further comprising accepting an additional, non-coin method of payment from said user.--

--45. The method of Claim 38, further comprising formatting the transaction request according to a standard protocol specified by the remote recipient.--

--46. The method of Claim 38, further comprising issuing a receipt to the user redeemable for an overage of the at least a portion of the coins retained over the payment by the user to the remote recipient.--